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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

## Sept. 17 - Sept. 23, 1992

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## **USDA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED STATE MILK MARKETING ORDERS RULE**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a second extension, until Oct. 19, as the final date for submitting comments on a proposed rule to prohibit excessive manufacturing allowances in state marketing orders for milk.

The proposed rule, published in the June 19 Federal Register, would establish procedures for implementing section 102 of the 1990 Farm Act (USDA news release 0572-92). The original comment deadline of July 20 was previously extended to Sept. 18 (USDA release 0668-92).

Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, said that under the proposed rule, penalties would be assessed in instances where states have product formulas to price milk used to produce butter, nonfat dry milk or cheese that use manufacturing allowances greater than those used in the federal price support program. The current federal milk price support program allowances are \$1.22 per hundredweight for milk used to produce butter and nonfat dry milk and \$1.37 per hundredweight for milk used to produce cheese.

Comments should be sent to: Dr. Charles N. Shaw, Director, Dairy Analysis Division, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, USDA, PO Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013-2415.

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## **CORN-COTTON ROTATION HELPS ELIMINATE COSTLY NEMATODES**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—Crop-damaging worms looking for a cozy home in cotton roots could find their search thwarted if farmers alternate cotton with less hospitable corn plantings, says a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

A planting of corn followed by cotton the next season reduced worm numbers by as much as 97 percent in field tests, reported plant pathologist Gary L. Windham of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. These microscopic worms, called reniform nematodes, delay maturity of cotton plants and can cut cotton yields by 60 percent in southeastern states, he said.

"The reniform nematode infects the roots of cotton plants," said Windham, who works at the ARS Corn Host Plant Resistance Research Unit at Mississippi State University in Starkville. "But the nematodes apparently find corn root tissue unpleasant. They can't establish a feeding site, so they don't build up or reproduce."

Windham and Gary W. Lawrence, a nematologist with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, tested commercially available corn hybrids for resistance to reniform nematodes.

In greenhouse experiments, plants of each corn hybrid were inoculated with 1,200 nematode eggs. Nematodes that hatched from those eggs couldn't reproduce at numbers equal to the initial population, Windham said. In 15 of the 50 hybrids tested, the researchers saw no eggs produced from the nematode population.

Field tests, in which corn was planted before cotton, demonstrated how reduced pest populations benefitted cotton yields the next season. Compared to 15,000 nematodes per pint of soil in cotton grown alone, only 400 nematodes per pint of soil remained when cotton followed a crop of one corn hybrid used in the test. Cotton yields increased because plant roots suffered fewer attacks by nematodes.

Windham said reniform nematodes primarily attack cotton grown in Gulf Coast states from Florida to Texas. Also, the pest reportedly attacks okra, squash and tomato plants in Texas, tobacco plants in North Carolina and South Carolina and pineapple plants in Hawaii.

As chemical controls for nematodes dwindle, corn can provide cotton growers with an alternative weapon against this pest, Windham said. Some

nematicides are being taken off the market because of environmental concerns. In addition, nematicides don't kill all the nematodes infecting a crop, Windham said. Small numbers of the nematodes survive and build up rapidly over the growing season.

Corn also could be rotated with other crops to control reniform nematodes, he said. Several of the corn hybrids tested also resist peanut and javanese root-knot nematodes.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Gary L. Windham, plant pathologist, Corn Host Plant Resistance Research Unit, USDA, ARS, Mississippi State, Miss. 39762. Telephone: (601) 323-2230.

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Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448  
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

## U.S. DONATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TO PERU

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate 38,540 metric tons of U.S. agricultural commodities to the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc. (CARE) for aid programs in Peru.

The \$4.5 million donation includes 18,000 metric tons of corn, 20,000 tons of sorghum and 540 tons of butteroil.

The commodities will be sold to the Peruvian private sector. The proceeds will be used to provide food assistance to the needy and to fund activities to improve the country's agricultural sector.

The donation is made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas. The supply period is calendar 1992.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, Foreign Agricultural Service, (202) 720-5263.

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## USDA ANNOUNCES REVISIONS TO PLANT IMPORTATION REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced revisions to current regulations governing the importation of plants and plant parts intended for propagation.

Today's revisions add articles from specified countries to the list of prohibited items, change conditions under which certain restricted items may be imported and alter certain inspection and paperwork procedures.

"The revisions are part of a continuing effort to update our import regulations to reflect changes in pest and disease distribution in a number of foreign countries," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"All changes were based on an assessment of the risk of introducing exotic agricultural pests and diseases into the United States," Lee said.

The changes were initially published as a proposal in the Feb. 14, 1991, Federal Register. APHIS received a number of comments during the public comment period.

"While most of the proposal was finalized intact, we did make some changes based on input from the public," said Lee. "For example, we had proposed to allow the restricted entry of grapevines from Germany. However, a number of commenters forwarded information demonstrating that the proposed restrictive measures would not prevent the entry of certain organisms. As a result, we have decided to withdraw that element of the proposal."

Lee said another area of particular interest was a proposed post-entry quarantine requirement for Canadian roses. Since publication of the proposal, APHIS received information suggesting such a quarantine would not be scientifically justifiable. As a result, APHIS withdrew the proposal pending further study.

Today's changes are scheduled for publication in the Sept. 18 Federal Register and will become effective Oct. 19. APHIS intends to propose a number of additional revisions in the next few years.

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR EGYPT AND RUSSIA**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the following activity:

—Export sales of 620,000 metric tons of wheat (340,000 tons of hard red spring, 150,000 of hard red winter, and 130,000 tons of soft red winter) for delivery to Egypt during the 1992-93 marketing year; and

—Export sales of 165,000 tons of corn for delivery to Russia during 1992-93.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1 and for corn began Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

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Minnie Tom H. Meyer (202) 720-7954

Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), the coarse count adjustment and the user marketing certificate payment rate in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Sept. 18, through midnight Thursday, Sept. 24.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price)

exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 81 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 4.02 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP .....	42.52 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate .....	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate .....	81
II.	USNE Price .....	60.45 cents per pound
	NE Price .....	<u>-56.43</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed .....	4.02 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made. This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
NE Price .....	56.43
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	12.05
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	1.55
Average U.S. location .....	0.31
Sum of Adjustments .....	<u>-13.91</u>
Calculated AWP .....	42.52
Further AWP Adjustment .....	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	42.52 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment	
NE Price .....	56.43
NE Coarse Count Price .....	<u>-51.65</u>
	4.78
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton .....	<u>-3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....	0.83 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1990, 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.27, 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The

AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 2.77 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	Aug. 27, 1992	62.10	58.10	4.00	2.75
2	Sept. 3, 1992	60.50	57.11	3.39	2.14
3	Sept. 10, 1992	60.20	56.45	3.75	2.50
4	Sept. 17, 1992	60.45	56.43	4.02	2.77

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

The next announcement of the AWP, coarse count adjustment and user marketing certificate payment rate will be made on Thursday, Sept. 24.

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Jim Greene (202) 720-0314  
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

**USDA APPROVES POULTRY IRRADIATION**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved irradiation of poultry as a means of destroying potential bacteria that can cause foodborne illness, a USDA official announced today.



“Future poultry irradiation facilities will be inspected by USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service to ensure products are irradiated and handled properly,” said Dr. H. Russell Cross, FSIS administrator. “Plants are required to have an FSIS-approved quality control program to ensure worker and product safety.”

“There are currently no facilities conducting poultry irradiation and no irradiated poultry products in the marketplace,” Cross said.

Requirements for facilities to conduct poultry irradiation will be published as a rule in the Sept. 21 Federal Register. The rule permits irradiation of fresh or frozen, uncooked whole or cut-up (ground, hand-boned, and skinless) poultry.

The green, international symbol for irradiation and the words “Treated with Radiation” or “Treated by Irradiation” will be printed prominently on the package label of irradiated poultry. The words “Keep Refrigerated” or “Keep Frozen” also will have to be on the label, as is the case for all raw meat and poultry.

Cross said the new rule specifies that poultry can be irradiated with the smallest practical range of irradiation to control pathogens like Salmonella, Listeria and Campylobacter safely and effectively.

“In 1990 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved poultry irradiation after its evaluations showed that radiation controls bacteria, with no hazard to consumers and with no adverse effects on the poultry’s nutritional value,” Cross said.

USDA proposed the poultry irradiation rule on May 6, and received more than 1,000 comments.

“Irradiation does not sterilize poultry,” Cross said, “so to prevent recontamination by bacteria, irradiated poultry must still be handled, stored and cooked properly.”

Consumers with questions on food irradiation may call FSIS technical information specialists on the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555 (or 202-720-3333 in the Washington, D.C., area). The Hotline phone numbers provide access to a telecommunications device for the hearing impaired. The Hotline can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday.

FSIS and its 9,000 employees are dedicated to protecting the public by ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.

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## **U.S. FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW TRADE ACCORD WITH JAPAN**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 — Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan said today he expects the new trade accord with Japan will mean millions of dollars in additional sales for U.S. agricultural producers.

The accord was signed earlier today by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and Japanese representatives.

“Over the next three years we expect that the package of concessions we have just won from Japan will add an estimated \$75 million to \$95 million in extra sales for U.S. farmers,” Madigan said. “While the lion’s share of this new growth will go to U.S. corn producers, significant export gains are also expected for various processed dairy products such as whey, dairy-based bakery goods, ice cream mixes, cheese food, and dietary supplements.”

Madigan also noted that tariff reductions were negotiated for corn grits (for breakfast cereals) and potato flakes, and that these should also produce modest trade growth.

“Equally important as these extra sales is the fact that Japan will continue to honor the market access improvement measures and tariff concessions granted in 1988,” Madigan said. “Those earlier concessions have already helped U.S. agricultural sales expand by \$200 million between 1988 and 1991. That represents a 45-percent increase in trade for the affected commodities.”

The new accord builds upon a 1988 agreement that won improved access for 11 groups of processed agricultural products. Trade growth following that agreement was particularly dramatic for Japanese imports of U.S. apple juice (\$1.7 million in 1988 to \$25.2 million in 1991); grape juice (\$18.0 million to \$26.2 million); ice cream (\$16,000 to \$20.2 million); corn for starch and other industrial uses imported under tariff quota (\$357.1 million to \$462.2 million); pineapple juice (\$4,000 to \$5.3 million); miscellaneous beverage bases with added sugar (\$2.8 million to \$10.1 million); tomato ketchup (\$2.7 million to \$5.2 million); and chemically pure fructose (\$596,000 to \$9.5 million).

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## **USDA TO HOLD AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK '93 CONFERENCE DEC. 1-3**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—Agriculture Outlook '93, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 69th outlook conference, will be held here Dec. 1-3.

The conference will open at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, with a keynote speech by Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan. Following presentations on 1993 economic and farm prospects, other Tuesday speakers will look to the future as they discuss "Agriculture's Changing Horizon."

"The changing international scene and trends in American society will affect U.S. agriculture in the years ahead. This conference will provide a look at what those changes might mean," said Daniel A. Sumner, USDA's assistant secretary for economics.

"We're asking knowledgeable observers to assess the influences of emerging nations, new economic alliances and reformed world trade rules," Sumner said. "Other experts will discuss a full range of topics, from the challenge of farming under changing environmental rules to the advent of new, farm-based industrial products."

On Wednesday, the conference returns to the 1993 prospects for farmers and consumers. Government and industry analysts will discuss the outlook for major farm commodities and forest products.

One group of sessions will highlight new farming approaches that benefit farmers and the environment. Agribusiness subjects will include the retail food outlook, farm finance and new industrial uses for farm products.

Thursday morning will feature sessions on nutrition information, rural development policies and prospects and changing maritime shipping rules. Government and industry programs promoting use of the new Food Guide Pyramid and health-related efforts to teach better nutrition will be featured.

The registration fees will be \$45.00 for the full conference; reduced fees apply for those attending for one day only.

To provide wider public access, live broadcasts of major conference sessions will be aired for television on C-band satellite. Audiotape and videotape cassettes and a published proceedings also will be offered.

For more details, write or call: Outlook '93, Room 5143-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-3900; telephone (202) 720-3050.

NOTE TO EDITORS: A fully staffed press room will be available. For details, call Diane Decker at (202) 219-0494. The registration fee can be waived for accredited members of the news

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Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623

## **USDA PROVIDES MORATORIUM ON HOUSING PAYMENTS TO HAWAIIAN HURRICANE VICTIMS**

KAUAI, Hawaii, Sept. 22—Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman today announced a 120-day moratorium on mortgage payments for victims of Hurricane Iniki on the Island of Kauai who financed their homes through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nearly 470 homes that suffered damage on the island were financed by the Farmers Home Administration, a farm and housing credit agency of USDA.

“In the wake of Hurricane Iniki, it may be weeks and months before some of the storm’s victims are able to resolve their housing needs and return to their jobs,” Veneman said. “To help ease the tragedy of fellow citizens stricken by the storm, USDA will offer a moratorium on their housing payments to help them get back on their feet.”

According to Veneman, FmHA will also target eligible homeowners for housing repair grants and loans in conjunction with private insurance proceeds, and assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

For eligible applicants, FmHA can also provide loan guarantees for up to 100 percent of the value of a new single-family home purchase, up to \$187,300. This assistance can be particularly beneficial to those who will need to rebuild, Veneman said. Direct loans are also available for qualified individuals.

Veneman said similar mortgage relief was also allowed in Florida and Louisiana for victims of Hurricane Andrew.

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## NEW TIFTON 85 BERMUDAGRASS PACKS MORE PUNCH

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—A new bermudagrass that produces more hay and significantly increases cattle weight gain is expected to be available to southern farmers next year, U.S. Department of Agriculture and University of Georgia scientists report.

USDA's plant geneticist Glenn W. Burton, Tifton, Ga., said the new grass, Tifton 85, withstands drought and produces 26 percent more forage than a leading bermudagrass called Coastal, based on 1985-91 field studies. Coastal, released in 1943 from Burton's lab, is now planted on 10 million acres across the southern states.

Burton and fellow researchers also found in a 1989-91 study that the overall weight—known as liveweight—of steers grazing Tifton 85 increased by 47 percent compared to steers grazing Tifton 78, another highly productive bermudagrass developed by Burton.

"Tifton 85's increase in harvested yields and weight gains for cattle gives it great potential for pasture and hay across the South," said Burton, who works at the Forage and Turf Research unit in Tifton operated by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Burton, ARS agronomist Roger N. Gates, and University of Georgia animal scientist Gary Hill, also based at Tifton, evaluated the new grass. It has been released to producers as the latest in a line of bermudagrass varieties developed at Tifton.

Earl Elsner, director of the Georgia Seed Development Commission, said Tifton 85, which doesn't produce seeds, has caught the attention of "spriggers"—certified growers who will produce the variety from "sprigs," or grass clumps in which blades of grass sprout from above- and belowground runners.

The grass will be planted by the spriggers, who are excited about it. "I have started to get telephone calls from spriggers saying, 'I want some, I want some,'" Elsner said.

The new variety is a hybrid between a variety from South Africa and another called Tifton 68. Tifton 85 is taller, has larger stems, broader leaves and darker green color than its predecessors.

Burton said Tifton 85 was 11 percent higher than Coastal in what is called in-vitro dry matter digestibility, which simulates normal digestion using lab test tubes and fluid from a cow's rumen.



Tifton 85's increase in digestibility is important, he said, because cattle eating it could gain weight at a faster rate—as demonstrated in the 1989-91 steer grazing trial. In that study, available forage was maintained at 2,500 pounds/acre in Tifton 78 and Tifton 85 pastures. Tifton 85 provided 38 percent more steer grazing days/acre and produced 47 percent more liveweight gain/acre than Tifton 78.

Tifton 85 is also drought tolerant—"at least as drought tolerant as any of the hybrid bermudagrasses," said Hill. He noted that in 1990—Georgia's worst drought year since 1954—there were no apparent losses and "cattle continued to graze on it at high stocking rates."

One of the only question marks about Tifton 85 is its ability to withstand cold. In December 1989, it survived unusually low temperatures of 7 to 28 degrees F in Athens, GA, but it was planted at a depth of four inches—more than the normal depth of two inches. Burton is conducting further studies to determine if deeper planting depths will protect it from freezing temperatures.

Although planting may be limited to the deep south, the researchers say it could be planted across the southern United States from Georgia to California. Elsner said spriggers from a half-dozen states—including Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina—attended a workshop on the grass last February. He said sprigs of Tifton 85 will be available from certified growers on a limited basis in 1993.

Elsner said cattlemen who want Tifton 85 sprigs for planting should contact the crop improvement association in their states for the names of certified sprig producers.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Glenn W. Burton or Roger N. Gates, USDA, ARS, Forage and Turf Research Unit, Coastal Plain Experiment Station, P.O. Box 748, Tifton, GA 31793. Telephone: (912) 386-3353.

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Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734  
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.15 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 8.25 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.24 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.57 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

- for long grain, \$0.99 per hundredweight;
- for medium grain, \$0.94 per hundredweight;
- for short grain, \$0.94 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 12:00:01 A.M. EDT until 12:00:00 a.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 29. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Sept. 29 at 7 a.m. EDT. The price announced at that time will be effective from 12:00:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 29.

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Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623

## **USDA REAFFIRMS THE 1992/93 SUGAR TARIFF RATE QUOTA**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today reaffirmed that the 1992/93 sugar tariff rate quota level will be 1,231,000 metric tons, the same level announced Aug. 27.

A notice affirming the quota level will be published in the Federal Register Tuesday, Sept. 22.

As of Sept. 6, sugar totalling 1,169,953 metric tons had been entered into the customs territory of the United States against the 1991/92 tariff rate quota of 1,385,000 metric tons (includes specialty sugars). Madigan's comments today reiterated an earlier statement by President Bush.

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## **MADIGAN NAMES MEMBERS TO NEW LIME BOARD**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today appointed 14 lime producers and importers to the new Lime Board.

“Although the Florida lime industry suffered damage as a result of Hurricane Andrew, the industry has expressed a desire to move ahead with implementing the lime research and promotion program,” said Madigan.

Authorized under the Lime Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act of 1990, the board will consist of seven producers, three importers, and one person representing the general public, and an alternate for each member.

The appointees were selected from nominees elected in the two districts (Eastern and Western) established under the Lime Research, Promotion and Consumer Information Order. The secretary will appoint the six additional alternates from District 1 and the public member and alternate later. Another nomination meeting will be held to elect the nominees for the District 1 alternates. The board will nominate the individuals to serve as the public member and alternate.

All terms expire on Dec. 31, 1995, unless otherwise noted. Members and alternates announced today are:

Producers District 1 (Eastern States): members Herbert T. Yamamura, Princeton, Aileen Ruland, Homestead, Steve Biondo, Homestead, (1994), William H. Krome, Homestead, (1994), Diego Rodriguez, Miami, (1993), and Steven C. Wheeling, Homestead, (1993); and alternate Robert A. Yamamura, Homestead, all of Florida.

Producers District 2 (Western States): member Thomas Y. Palmer, Fallbrook, Calif., and alternate Sammy L. Travis, Vista, Calif.

Importers District 1: member Neal P. Brooks, Homestead, Fla., (1994).

Importers District 2: members Barry R. London and Daniel G. Seitz, Jr., (1993); and alternates Ben F. Brittain and George L. Edwards, (1993), all of McAllen, Texas.

Terms of office for the initial board members are staggered to provide administrative continuity. In each subsequent year, approximately one-third of the board will be appointed for three-year terms.

The board will administer a national research, promotion and consumer information program to increase the demand for limes domestically and internationally. Assessments on lime producers and importers will fund the board's activities.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will monitor board operations.

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## **USDA LIFTS TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN ANIMAL PRODUCTS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that animal products from certain countries may now move through the United States en route to foreign destinations without having to originate in USDA- approved establishments.

The affected countries include those that are free of rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease and swine vesicular disease but are currently subject to certain import restrictions because of potential risk factors.

“This action creates new trade routes for shippers in certain foreign countries,” said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator for veterinary services with USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “We believe it also will provide more business for domestic transport and brokerage companies without increasing the risk of introducing disease.”

The main countries involved are Chile, Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. The change also will affect the Caribbean basin countries, which will be the recipients of the exported products.

To safeguard U.S. agricultural health, shippers must transport their products in sealed containers and move them out of the United States in the shortest practicable time period.

The new regulations were announced in a final rule that became effective Sept. 16 and is scheduled for publication in the Sept. 23 Federal Register.

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Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

## **USDA SEEKS INPUT ON POSSIBLE IMPORT REGULATIONS FOR UNMANUFACTURED WOOD**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today asked for public comments to help identify an effective way of regulating the importation of certain types of unmanufactured wood.

“There is intense commercial interest in developing an industry in the Pacific Northwest to import and process logs from foreign countries,” said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine in



USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "Because this is a new initiative, no regulations address such imports specifically."

Unmanufactured wood products have not been processed in a manner that would remove or kill pests associated with the trees from which the wood was derived. This includes logs, lumber, wood chips, bark and pulp wood.

Lee said it is necessary to regulate importing these articles because of a variety of exotic pests and diseases associated with them that could be detrimental to U.S. forest resources.

APHIS has asked for public assistance in identifying effective pest elimination treatments and specific wood products that should be subject to regulation. Today's Federal Register notice lists eight specific questions that commenters may wish to address. If APHIS decides to issue regulations, a proposal will be published at a later date in the Federal Register.

Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Nov. 23. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket 91-074-2 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected as soon as received at USDA, Room 1141-S, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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## **INSECT PROTEINS FOUND THAT STOP, CORN EARWORM MATING**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—As corn earworm moths mate, the male passes along to the female a protein that stops her from luring other males—and may also cause her to lose interest in sex until she lays her eggs.

U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists report that the protein—called a pheromonostatic peptide (PSP)—blocks the female's ability to produce a sex scent that attracts a mate. It is the first time scientists have found an insect protein that plays a role in stopping the female from producing the sex attractant, known as a pheromone, said Ashok Raina, an entomologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Md.

Raina said the discovery is the first step toward new ways of controlling insects without using chemicals. What is needed now, he said, is an appropriate carrier, such as an insect-specific virus or bacteria, into which the gene for PSP protein could be inserted. Then that genetically engineered organism could be sprayed on earworms in the field, Raina said.

Infected earworms would spread the organism to each other, but would be harmless to other insects, plants and animals, said Raina. Corn earworms cause an estimated \$1.2 billion in damage to crops each year.

The male PSP protein “is nature’s way of assuring that the female will concentrate on laying her eggs and won’t be distracted by other males once she’s pregnant,” said Raina in the August issue of Agricultural Research magazine.

Raina and Timothy G. Kingan, at the ARS Insect Neurobiology and Hormone Laboratory in Beltsville, in collaboration with Wanda Bodnar and Donald Hunt of the University of Virginia, have identified the sequence of 57 amino acids that make up the PSP protein. Next, Raina said, scientists will synthesize the protein in the lab and test it to confirm its action. The PSP discovery comes after years of research by Raina and colleagues on insect brain proteins, called neuropeptides—and specifically on one of these proteins, called PBAN.

PBAN is composed of 33 amino acids—the basic building blocks of proteins. PBAN triggers production of the pheromone in the corn earworm female. She uses the pheromone to lure males during nighttime mating.

But she doesn’t produce the pheromone until she senses plant chemicals signaling that the right plant—such as corn—is available for her offspring to feed on, according to research by Raina and ARS colleagues Kingan and Autar K. Mattoo at Beltsville. They reported that finding earlier this year in Science magazine. (USDA News Release No. 0105-92)

The female earworm delays pheromone production until the right plant is nearby because “once she is pregnant, she can’t hold back her eggs,” Raina said. “So she first has to make sure there’s a food source for her offspring before she mates. And once she mates, the male passes along sperm and the PSP protein.”

Beltsville scientists have not yet inserted PSP into an insect-specific organism called a baculovirus, but they have taken this step with PBAN. Minh-Tam Davis in Raina’s lab cloned the PBAN gene, and Raina, in collaboration with Vic Vakharia of the Center for Agricultural Biotechnology, University of Maryland, successfully inserted the PBAN gene into a baculovirus. That’s a “model system” for getting the protein inside the insect, Raina said, and should work for the PSP protein.



How corn earworms regulate the production of sex attractants was a mystery until Raina's discovery that a neuropeptide was involved. Raina and colleagues then spent about five years identifying PBAN's specific protein composition, published in 1989. Howard Jaffe, formerly with ARS and now at the National Institutes of Health, worked on purifying PBAN, while Thomas G. Kempe, who is at the University of Maryland, collaborated on synthesizing it.

That effort paid off in July 1991, when Raina and the two collaborators received a patent on PBAN—opening the way for companies to seek licenses to turn the protein into a new, natural corn earworm control to replace chemicals.

Aside from the baculovirus approach, Raina and Kempe are also pursuing another strategy: the production of non-protein mimics to act as blockers of PBAN action and disrupt the insects' internal body functions. The scientists identified a short protein fragment consisting of only five amino acids. The fragment had the same effect on the insect as the intact PBAN. Then the two designed a PBAN-fragment mimic consisting of just one amino acid.

Mimics are important because they break down more slowly than proteins inside the insect's body, so they are effective longer, Raina said.

The next steps: finding a PBAN blocker to disrupt corn earworm mating. It could be a non-protein mimic that could be sprayed on the insect. Or it could be a protein—such as the male PSP protein—that would be synthesized and then inserted into the baculovirus.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Ashok K. Raina, entomologist, Insect Neurobiology and Hormone Lab, USDA, ARS, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone: (301) 504-9396. Black and white photograph is available (Parker fill in)

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## U.S. DONATES BUTTEROIL TO BYELARUS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate 5,000 metric tons of U.S. butteroil to Byelarus.

The \$10.4 million donation includes \$8.5 million of butteroil and \$1.9 million for transportation costs. The butteroil will be sold by the government



of Byelarus through state-owned stores. The proceeds will be used to provide food and economic assistance to needy families, invalids and persons suffering from the Chernobyl disaster.

The donation is made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas. The supply period is U.S. fiscal year 1992.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, Foreign Agricultural Service, (202) 720-5263.

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Jim Greene (202) 720-0314  
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

## **KANSAS FIRM RECALLS BONELESS HAM PRODUCT FROM EIGHT STATES**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that Ohse Foods Inc., a Wichita, Kan., food processing firm, is voluntarily recalling about 2,520 pounds of its sliced boneless ham product. The recalled product has a strong chemical odor.

The sliced boneless ham product was distributed to retail food stores in Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

All 1-1/2-pound packages of "Big 'T' Brand Smokehouse Buffet Ham & Water Product" with the production code "233" stamped on the package are being recalled. "EST. 5539-B" appears inside the USDA inspection seal on the label. No other product is affected by the recall.

"We urge consumers who may have purchased the suspect product to return it unopened to the place of purchase," said Dr. Donald L. White, associate administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. "Because of the potential health risk, we strongly urge consumers to avoid opening or tasting the product."

USDA was notified of the problem when a consumer reported feeling ill after eating some of the product.

Consumers with questions about the recall may phone the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. The Hotline can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern time) Monday through Friday. This number also provides access to a telecommunications device for the hearing impaired.

FSIS and its 9,000 employees are dedicated to protecting the public by ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled.

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR BANGLADESH**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 100,000 metric tons of soft red winter wheat for delivery to Bangladesh during the 1992-93 marketing year.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 P.M. eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

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Roger Runnigen (202) 720-4623

## **USDA TO ADVANCE PURCHASES OF CHEESE FOR SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will purchase 21 million pounds of pasteurized process American cheese and mozzarella cheese to meet requirements of the School Lunch Program.

The purchases will take place during October to meet school lunch requirements from December through February 1993.

Madigan said this is in addition to the 6.4 million pound purchase already announced for November.

Details on how to submit offers to sell cheese to USDA are available from its Kansas City Commodity Office, telephone (816) 926-2503.

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Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

## **USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON 1993 RICE PROGRAM PROVISIONS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation is requesting comments on whether an acreage reduction program should be implemented for the 1993 crop of rice and, if so, the percentage reduction, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

Comments must be received by Oct. 20 to be considered and should be sent to: Deputy Administrator, Policy Analysis, USDA/ASCS, Room 3090-S, Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415. Comments may also be FAXed to 202-690-1346.

The proposed rule will be published in the Sept. 28 Federal Register. For further information, write to the above address or call: Gene Rosera, Fibers and Rice Analysis Division, ASCS, 202-720-6734.

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Ron Hall (202) 720-5747

## **BRUCE STILLINGS NAMED TO SCIENCE AND EDUCATION POST AT USDA**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23—Bruce R. Stillings has been named deputy assistant secretary of agriculture for science and education at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

In this position, Stillings will assist in overseeing four USDA agencies responsible for agricultural research and education involving production and use of animals and plants and development of new products and the use and conservation of soil, water, forest and air resources. Those agencies are USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative State Research Service, Extension Service, and National Agricultural Library.

He succeeds Harry Mussman, who held the position from August 1989 until September 8, when he moved to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, where he is now the U.S. representative to the U.S. Mission to United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture (FODAG) in Rome.



“Bruce brings to USDA nearly two decades of management experience in research and development with two major food companies,” Madigan said. “We’ll draw heavily on that background, as he takes over his new responsibilities.”

Since July 1989 Stillings served as vice president for research and development within the Durkee-French Foods Division of Reckitt & Colman, Inc., a food and household products company based in Wayne, N.J. In that position he directed programs related to research and development, consumer affairs, and quality assurance.

From 1974 to 1989 Stillings worked for Nabisco Foods, Inc., a food products company based in East Hanover, N.J. During that time he served in several positions, including vice president of technology development, vice president of research and development, and director of food safety.

From 1966 to 1974 he worked for the National Marine Fisheries Services, first within the U.S. Department of the Interior and then when the agency shifted to the U.S. Department of Commerce. He held several positions at the agency, including national program manager and assistant laboratory director.

Stillings, a native of North Berwick, Maine, holds a B.S. degree in animal science from the University of Maine in Orono, as well as M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in nutrition, both from Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa.

He is the author or co-author of 40 scientific, technical, and non-technical publications in the areas of food science, technology, and nutrition and has served in leadership positions in such groups as the American Association of Cereal Chemists, the Institute of Food Technologists, and the American Spice Trade Association.

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